5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

463 people of Hsi-lien, for in the afternoon at the village of Wan-yao I found pottery works and a manufactory of iron
323 pans. The potter's wheel was made of one round stone revolving over another. The upper stone has a piece sticking up at the top and round this piece the clay is put. The potter then makes the stones revolve by working a treadle with his foot, and at the same time forms the clay with his hands. In three or four minutes he made a plate and two different sizes of cup. When the moulding is finished the things are put out in the sun to dry. Then comes the glazing. This process I did not see, but it was explained to me as follows:—The glazing stuff is made of rice husk and lime mixed together and heated and then mixed with water. Into this mixture the cups are put and are then baked in a kiln. The result is a greenish coloured glaze.

326 I then went on, accompanied by several villagers, to the iron works. Here they had a cylindrical-shaped furnace, three feet long and one foot in diameter, in which the iron
376] was placed to melt. An ingenious use had been made of a little stream which flowed past the shed, to turn a horizontally placed water-wheel which worked the bellows for the furnace. Two pan-shaped clay moulds are then taken and one is fastened tightly down over the other, both with the convex side uppermost. The furnace is then tilted up a little so that the melted iron runs into a ladle, by means of which it is poured into a small hole in the upper mould, so that it fills up all the space between the two. It is left for a minute to solidify, and then the topmost mould is taken off and the pan that has been thus formed put on one side to cool.

186 While I was looking at this, one of the villagers came running up, grinning all over, and shouted out, "Is this a foreign devil?" He was immediately silenced by the others, and one could not take offence where evidently none was meant. The fact is that Chinamen among themselves nearly always allude to us as "Yang kuei-tzŭ," "Sea devil" or "Devil from across the sea," and many ignorant villagers would be puzzled to find any other name by which to call a European. The origin of this expression, I believe, dates from the first Chinese war of 1842. The Chinese

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

generals and admirals looking about for an excuse for their defeat, described our men-of-war as "sea devils," against whom it was impossible for mortal men to contend.

I slept at Shun-chiang, a village of 200 houses, which is perhaps the principal place in Hsi-lien. This district consists of a plain or plateau about 23 miles long running from north to south at an elevation which averages 6000 feet. The northern half runs down the Ku-tung Ho, and is from one to three miles wide. This river then turns off eastward to join the Shweli, and the southern part of Hsi-lien is a plateau with little tributaries of the Ku-tung Ho or of the Shweli, crossing it from west to east. Along these little streams are irrigated fields, so that in going up the plateau from south to north one crosses alternately small rice plains and bits of higher-lying uncultivated ground, covered with rocks and bushes.

The hills all round are fairly well clothed with forest, chiefly of fir trees. The range to the west rises to 9,500 feet, but that to the east is lower, with gaps through it by which the streams reach the Shweli[1]. The abundance of timber is shown by the fact that all the houses are built of wood instead of the usual soft brick. The district is decidedly a prosperous one and contributes to the volume of trade to be got out of T'êng-yüeh. Fruit-growing and sheep-rearing could be carried on very successfully here.

From Shun-chiang we went on by two easy marches to Ma-li-pa, a village in the small district of T'ien-t'ang-kuan which lies at the head of the Ku-tung Ho. Here we found shelter for mules as well as men in a water-tight but very draughty temple. The district is governed by an hereditary Chinese chief, and is of no importance except for its iron mine. This has been worked chiefly by surface-diggings, but in two places there are deeper shafts, the earth being propped up by logs of wood placed close together and supported by posts. One of these goes down forty or fifty feet.

The ore is smelted near the village, and the bellows of the furnace, as at Wan-yao, are worked by a water-wheel. The softer iron is used for the manufacture of pans, but

[1] Some of these streams run into holes in this range.

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

round in a circular furrow, into which the paddy was thrown. It was worked by a water-wheel which revolved horizontally like a turbine, teeth being arranged all round the outer edge of its top surface to catch the water.

We had heard cuckoos everywhere round us for the last few days. The bird appears to be the same as the English cuckoo, and in western China as in England it makes its appearance in April, though I think in the Shan States I have heard it as early as March.

My mules went straight along the main road to Yang-kai the next day, but I made a slight detour to see Hsün-tien Chou which lies a little off the road. It is a small, poor town in a rather well-cultivated plain with the upper waters of the Niu-lan Chiang running through it. The Tao-t'ai of eastern Yün-nan has his residence here. His district comprises Chao-t'ung Fu, Tung-ch'uan Fu, and Ch'ü-ching Fu.

It rained most of the day and we did not reach Yang-kai till seven in the evening, as the march with the circuit to Hsün-tien must have been 24 miles.

The next day we passed Sung-ming Chou which lies a mile to the right of the road[1]. The town is a small one, but it stands in a good plain, measuring about 10 miles each way. Exceptionally fine opium is grown here and at Yang-kai. The poppy flower of Yün-nan is usually white, the next most common colour being mauve or purple. Scarlet poppies are occasionally seen but they are not common.

After crossing the plain the road leads over a lot of uncultivated undulating ground. As there was some delay in changing our escort at Sung-ming, I went on without a guide. Going off to the right of the road to put up my plane-table, I tried to make a short cut back, and got on to the wrong path, a mistake which we did not discover till we met a man a mile or two on. We then struck across to the left but found so many well used tracks made by timber-hauling from the fir woods in front of us, that it was most difficult to pick out the right road. We could see no village and could find no one to ask the way of, and as it was

[1] What is considered the main road passes a little further to the east through Yang-lin, but the route I took is rather the more direct of the two.

1 [village of Liu-shu-ho -- Analyst]